



Friends, Families and Travellers

Special Edition:
Autumn 2005 - Spring 2006

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Management Committee
Meetings:

22 Oct 2005
10 Dec 2005
28 Jan 2006
18 March 2006
6 May 2006
24 June 2006 (AGM)
12 August 2006
30 October 2006
16 December 2006



Friends, Families and Travellers



Welcome to the Special Edition of the Newsletter.

This is our mini-newsletter, as our newsletter editor, Tammy Furey, is leaving us temporarily on maternity leave. FFT are considering changing the format of our newsletter. We would like to be able to give you, our members, a regular, brief update on the important work of FFT. This would enable us to use more of the subscription money to fund our very important work with Gypsies and Travellers in England and Wales.

Please write and tell us what you think of the new mini-newsletter.

FFT Staff news

Friends, Families and Travellers has been without a National Co-ordinator early 2005 following the departure of Rob Whitehead. The Management Committee has asked Chris Whitwell, a senior manager with extensive experience of the voluntary and public sectors, to help to fill the gap during

this transitional period. Chris will be helping the Directors to shape the future strategic direction of FFT, develop a new Business Plan for the organisation and to identify and secure new sources of funding.

We are also pleased to welcome Sally Burnett, who joins us as the newly appointed Health Visitor for the Sussex Traveller Women's Health Project. Sally will be an enormous asset to the Team and our attempts to develop a holistic approach towards the provision of health services to Traveller women in Sussex.

Anna, our caseworker and administrator left FFT in September. We would like to thank her for all her hard work, and wish her well in her future career.

Tammy Furey, our editor, and co-ordinator of the highly praised Cyberpilots project, will be departing on maternity leave towards the end of October. Tammy is expecting her first child at the beginning of November and we wish her well for the happy event.

News from the Advice and Information Unit

At the moment the Advice & Information Unit is just staffed by Unit Manager, Emma Nuttall, as we are in the process of recruiting two part-time additional positions of caseworker and administrator/book keeper. We hope to have these posts filled by the end of November. If you call the office during this period, please be patient, we will return your calls. The Unit has been busy, and we have carried out 45 cases since August of this year.

FFT has recently attended meetings with; Shelter, Sussex Traveller Forum, Kent Unauthorised Encampments Liaison Group, the Local Government Association Conference and met with Michelle Banks from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) in July. We, alongside other members of the Gypsy and Traveller Law Reform Coalition (G&TLRC) will meet Yvette Cooper, Minister responsible for Gypsy and Traveller issues in October to discuss the workings of the new Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, and the Housing Act 2004.

To manage our case work more effectively, we would like to remind our members that the Unit is closed to incoming phone and office visits on Wednesdays.

The G&TLR Coalition will be holding a conference on November 15 at Friends Meeting House, Euston, London, entitled "Tackling Community Tensions and Creating Dialogue, Understanding and Partnership between Gypsies and Travellers and the settled community". 120 tickets are free for Travellers, to reserve tickets contact Andrew Ryder at romanistan@yahoo.com or on 07985 684 921. For paid tickets visit www.policyspotlight.co.uk

The Coalition, the All Party Parliamentary Group for Traveller Law Reform and CSV (Community Service Volunteers) will also be holding a smaller event for Year of the Volunteer on 18 October 2005 in London. Coalition committee members and other Gypsies and Travellers will be talking about their voluntary and community work. If you'd like to go contact Andrew Ryder.

And remember the Gypsy and Traveller Law, published by the Legal Action Group, 2004. This fantastic 'Bible' of a book is available to Gypsies and Travellers for only £10, and to everyone else for £29. Get your copy from the Legal Action Group, 0207 833 7424, www.lag.org.uk

Emma Nuttall, Unit Manager, 11 October 2005.

Green Lanes as an Accommodation Resource - a report

The traditionally used camping places, which evolved alongside the highway network as it developed, have witnessed nomadic dwelling for millennia. Green lanes are habitats for a diversity of life, including human. For the Traveller, whatever his race or origin, Rights of Way are Human Rights - for it is his relationship with land, greensward and common, that defines his heritage and culture.

The 'needs assessment' process has so far been biased towards property development solutions to address the accommodation crisis which confront nomadic people on a regular

basis. This proposal sets out the economic, cultural and environmental argument for a commons regime over green lanes and greensward as a counterbalance to spatial and cultural segregation. Read Green lanes as an accommodation resource for Nomadic People, by Tony Thomson BSC Dip Arch, FFT Director on FFT's website:

www.gypsy-traveller.org/sites/homelessness/green_lanes.htm

Or call the office for your copy

Sussex Traveller Women's Health Project

News from the Project Manager

We are now in the last six months of the project, which has been a huge learning curve for all of us involved and a success for FFT. The project set out to work with Traveller Women to identify their own health needs and then provide training for them to meet some of these needs. We aimed to support the women to become health advocates for their own communities in the long run.

We have worked with some amazing people, who despite adversity have all made valuable contributions to the project. We would like to continue to support these women if we can. However, we will be changing the next phase of

the project. We are already working with a Specialist Traveller Health Visitor in providing a culturally appropriate service to Travellers, having identified a huge need within some members of the community.

Following on from the 'Health Status of Travellers Report' last year, we now have proof of the cultural health divide that exists. We would like to work with the local Primary Care Trust's and Social Care to bridge the gap in access to services. We feel that as an organisation working for Travellers, we are ideally suited for this and it would build upon our existing work. As ever it depends on the funding... So watch this space....

News from the Project's Team

Sally, Specialist Traveller Health Worker

I have been in post as Specialist Traveller Health Visitor since the end of July '05.

My remit is to work with Traveller Families across Brighton & Hove and East Sussex to promote their well being and work towards reducing current inequalities in health within this group.

It is also intended to develop effective partnership working with educators, local authorities and other statutory and voluntary organisations to promote joint working, in order to develop awareness of the health needs of Traveller families.

From the outset, it has been clear that there is a huge need within the Travelling Community to bridge the current gap in health service provision. I have met with a positive welcome from Travellers throughout the area.

I look forward to the coming months which I am sure will continue to highlight the need for culturally appropriate health services for Traveller Communities.

Avril, Outreach Worker

I took over the post of outreach worker six months into the start of the project. My first initial concerns were whether I could achieve the set targets of the project. I needn't have worried as within a short period of time these targets were met.

We've worked in a variety of ways: group sessions, one to one sessions, in mobile homes and in static homes. The responses have been amazing. I feel that I haven't had enough time to spend with some of these women, though their input has been just as important.

So with new funding, we hope to continue working and supporting the Traveller Community.

News from the Project's Team (cont)

Many thanks to all the women, trainers and professionals that have taken part so far in this project.

We have shared tears! And laughter!
Its been quite a roller coaster!

Cyber Pilot Project

Following the success of the G&TLRC fringe youth conference, Lucy Russell (YWCA) and the Cyber Pilots project are making plans for 2006! Fitting it all around maternity leave will be a challenge, and my baby son will be the youngest participant! So if you want to get involved in May 2006 as a workshop leader or as a participant, email us at:

youthconference@travellerslaw.org.uk
or if you missed this years conference, or want to stay updated on the plans for the next youth conference, visit: www.travellerslaw.org.uk/conferences_youth_05.htm

Meanwhile the Cyber pilot website goes from strength to strength:

www.gypsy-traveller.org/cyberpilots
The website has some exciting new pages:

1. New Gypsy and Traveller games, including picture puzzles.
2. A larger section for adults, called "Boring Bit!" packed full of resources for those working with Gypsy and Traveller young people.
3. The gallery section has been enlarged, including movie clips

The very successful E-Pals message is temporarily going on holiday until the 26th May. Contributions of artwork, poetry, photos and stories can still be emailed to tammy@gypsy-traveller.org or posted to the FFT address, but they will not be uploaded to the website until May. See you all then!

Tammy, Community Web Manager

Noticeboard

New Futures Association are taking on work again. If you would be interested in volunteering to work with us on issues affecting new Travellers, please contact Cal at calnfa@hotmail.com

Site for sale.

From around 1920 the land was used as a small Gypsy settlement, and more recently has been used as a permanent residential & holiday caravan site, currently sited are 2 statics and 1 trailer. The land is located in the village of Easington, East Yorkshire and covers approx 0.2

acre, newly fenced perimeter, with a cobble stone wall frontage & wrought iron gates. Mains water, sewer & electricity are connected on site, and there is a toilet/wash facility and washing machine. The village has a shop, a junior school and 3 pubs, and is just 1 mile from the beach. This site is ideally suited for either permanent or transient use. Local Council business rates currently apply, cost is just £300 per year for the site. Also there was previously outline planning permission granted for 3 dwellings which is being re-applied for. Price is £100,000. Tel 07909680290 Jason Graves or contact jasongraves@btconnect.com